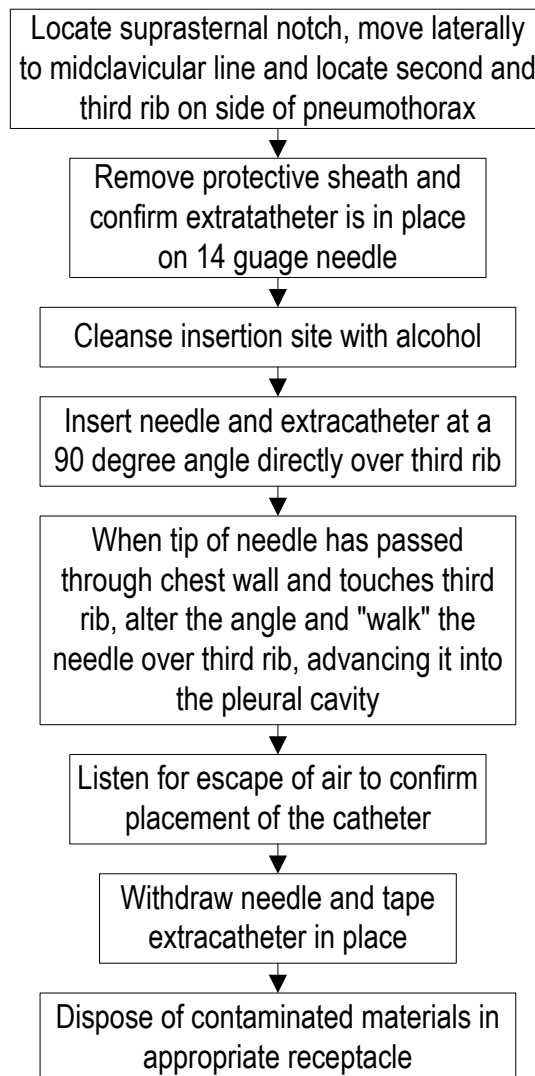


Initial: 9/92
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Revision: 3

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS
PRACTICAL SKILL
NEEDLE THORACOSTOMY**

Approved by: Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA
Signature:
Page 1 of 1

Purpose: To provide an open vent into the pleural space to decompress suspected tension pneumothorax		Indications: Patients presenting with suspected tension pneumothorax
Advantages: Decompresses tension pneumothorax Facilitates ventilation	Complications: Intercostal artery injury Iatrogenic pneumothorax if original diagnosis was incorrect	Contraindications: None if patient meets clinical criteria



NOTES:

- *Signs/symptoms of a tension pneumothorax:* restless/agitated; increases resistance to ventilation; jugular vein distention; severe respiratory distress; decreased or absent breath sounds on the affected side; hypotension; cyanosis; tracheal deviation away from the affected side
- *Indications that procedure was successful:* increase in blood pressure; loss of jugular vein distention; decreased dyspnea; easier to ventilate patient; improved color